

## **The Measure of a Man**

Anonymous

Freemasonry is a philosophy of life which calls into play all the forces of life in building that Temple of the soul as a symbol of the temple built by King Solomon, and in that building process Freemasonry has set out certain well defined principles and objectives as well as the ancient landmarks to be observed, wherein there is nothing inconsistent with civil, moral or religious duties and loyalties. Its task and program consists in the growing and development of the soul, or in other words, making the rough ashlar more perfect, and in inculcating the highest principles in society and in the State.

'A mason is a man and a Brother whose trust is in the GAOTU. He meets you on the level and acts on the square. Truth is his Compass and his is ever PLUMB. He is loyal to his Order, and whatever his degree, his is MASTER of himself.'

In the building of that Temple of Brotherhood there are certain ingredients which take priority over all others - there are some which are vital and that is CHARACTER. Now character does not come cheap; nature has few bargain counters and this appears to be true especially in the realm of morals. Everyone knows it requires little energy to slide down hill and drift unconsciously, but climbing 'the winding stairs' may test every muscle and every ounce of conviction. Character is what a man is in the dark. Character is likened to the foundation of a house - that part which is below the surface and which automatically gives that house strength and stability. Character is what a man really IS, while one's reputation is the record we've made in our respective communities.

Horace Greeley once reminded his readers that Fame is a vapour; popularity an accident; riches have the tendency to take wings and fly away; those who cheer today may curse tomorrow. Only one thing endures - CHARACTER.

Character is a priceless asset. Some years ago at a State dinner given in honour of Hon. Herbert Asquith, the chairman paid this tribute - 'He has brought to the work of leadership the most priceless of all assets - the asset of character. Believe me, however deceptive appearances may be, it is and always will be the one sure passport to the respect and homage of the British people. It is a happy assembling of qualities great in themselves, but greater and rarer in their combination.'

Men everywhere respect and admire noble characters wherever they are found. There is always something in right-being which attracts, moves, wins and compels. Character is difficult to explain or define. It is an element factor of life and is what the GAOTU knows us to be. It is something that exists entirely independent of the accessories and the accidents of life.

There is a story told of Sir Harry Lauder who, as a boy, worked in a coal mine in his beloved Scotland. He possessed a fine voice and in due time became a talented singer. For a generation he was before the public as an entertainer and a singer of humorous songs. A few years later he was knighted by King George and many people were surprised. Why did the King so singly honour a public entertainer? It was because of his rugged character for amid all the temptations associated with and connected with a music hall, he clung to the simple virtues taught him in his youth; he kept himself pure; he was sober as well as thrifty; he always observed the Sabbath and maintained his faith in the GAOTU. His whole personality is a shining example of what sterling character can be.

## **THE MEASURE OF A MAN**

A man's no bigger than the way he treats his fellow man.

This standard has his measure been since time itself began.

He's measured not by social rank when characters' the test

Nor by his pomp and earthly show displaying wealth possessed.

He's measured by justice and with right his fairness in his play

His squareness in all dealings made his honest upright way.

These are man's measures ever near to serve him when he can

For man's no bigger than the way he serves his fellow man.

Notes:

**Horace Greeley** - Horace Greeley was an American newspaper editor, a founder of the Liberal Republican Party, a reformer, a politician, and an outspoken opponent of slavery. Most famous for saying: "Go West, young man" 1811-1872 United States of America

**Hon. Herbert Asquith** – The Hon. Herbert Asquith was an English poet, novelist and lawyer. 1881-1947 He is known for his poems of the First World War which deeply affected him.

**Sir Harry Lauder** - Sir Henry Lauder, known professionally as Harry Lauder, was an international Scottish entertainer, described by Sir Winston Churchill as "Scotland's greatest ever ambassador!" 1870-1950